

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings, and claims in this application.

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A preventative method for protecting the skin from light-induced ageing and/or environment-related stress, comprising applying a composition comprising:

a continuous aqueous phase comprising L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid,

at least one sequestering agent, and

at least one neutralizing agent,

to the skin, wherein the pH of the aqueous phase is 5 to 8.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of EDTA, EDTA salts, disodium cocoamphodiacetate, diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid and salts thereof, the trisodium salt of nitrilotriacetic acid, ascorbic acid, trisodium citrate, etidronic acid and salts thereof, the heptasodium salt of diethylenetriamine pentamethylene phosphonic acid, the pentasodium salt of diethylenetriamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid, ethylenediamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid and salts thereof, sodium glucoheptanoate, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of the disodium and tetrasodium salts of EDTA, the dipotassium salt of EDTA, the pentasodium salt of diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, the

tetrasodium salt of etidronic acid, the pentasodium salt of ethylenediamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the sequestering agent is an EDTA salt.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonia, organic bases, basic amino acids, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, aminomethyl-1,3-propanediol, N-methylglucamine, arginine, lysine, and mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the neutralizing agent is triethanolamine.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said composition further comprises at least one other active agent selected from the group consisting of vitamins, depigmenting agents, keratolytic agents and/or desquamating agents, calmants and UV screening agents.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the composition further comprises at least one oil and the composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said composition comprises:

0.01 to 10% by weight of L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid,

0.01 to 1% by weight of the sequestering agent,

wherein the weight ratio of neutralizing agent to the L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid is 0.7:1 to 1.3:1.

Claims 28-37 (Cancelled).